

Poor Douglas Hurd really has come in for some shouting following his unveiling of the plans for the development of radio. Wavelength has been scouring the press and come up with the following quotes. . .

"In One way it has got to be applauded as setting the stage for the most far reaching development in UK Radio perhaps since the days of 2LO"

John Whitney, Director General IBA.

"What the Peacock-Green Paper-Radio Authority line does is to explode the founding myth of British broadcasting: that there is a shortage of frequencies. It wasn't true in the beginning, as the American radio boom made clear. It isn't true nowadays, as the community radio lobby has been saying for more than a decade, and as the pirates are once again demonstrating. But the myth justified monopoly and suited the secretive and undemocratic tradition of British Government with which a British public has uncomplainingly concluded, 'putting up with' economies of truth and resources."

Peter Lewis, "The Listener".

"Your proposals for changing the face of commercial radio in this country are radical and imaginative in their objects, but ill thought out and potentially damaging in their effect not only on those engaged on independent broadcasting but on the audiences who listen to it."

Lord Thompson, Chairman IBA in an open letter to Douglas Hurd.

"I understand the IBA's disappointment at our decision to establish a new Radio Authority. They are entitled to argue to retain this province of their empire, which they have ruled well"

Douglas Hurd

Methinks that Douglas Hurd's years at the Department of Trade and Industry may have let him see the light when it comes to Radio pirates. You see Mr. Hurd they did have a point after all.

Wavelength 18 set out on the hunt of former Radio One, and Caroline DJ Dixie Peach. So far we understand that the peach has been in pantomime at Leicester, and will now be moving on to ILR, the question is where!

Caroline's Breakfast DJ, and Deputy Programme Controller Kevin Turner has been traced to Southampton by Keen eared listeners David Williams and Richard Teversham, where he is doing the afternoon programme for ILR station Ocean Sound, but why asks Richard is he using the name "Peter MacFarlane"- "Is this a cover up" he asks. Not really, Peter MacFarlane is the talented broadcasters real name! Richard has offered to record tapes of his programmes, tapes should be sent to 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 3SP with return postage.

Chiltern Radio's Head of Music, and former Caroline and Sunshine presenter Tom Hardy has left the Bedford and Luton based station and headed for County Monahan and Kiss FM. Tom has been frustrated at Chiltern's insistence to get him on air, where as Tom prefers to stay away from the microphone these days. Just across the border ILR station Downtown Radio are reported to be worried.

Christopher Cooper has supplied us with some information on Greenpeace. The address to write to for Membership details, campaign news and sales catalogue is GREENPEACE, 30-31 Islington Green, London, N1 6XE. An annual donation of £7-£10 brings a quarterly newsletter. Christopher says that he has tried to encourage Greenpeace to strengthen their ties with Caroline, but it is apparently a matter they refrain from commenting on in writing!

The January edition of "The Face" has a lengthy article on the London stations, including an interview with Zak of LWR. Zak has an apparent dislike of Radio groupies known as Anoraks(?) in particular TX: Radio Today, which according to the article has been withdrawn from sale at the Virgin Megastore following complaints. Not so. As one of our contacts has spotted TX on sale at Virgin well after the article in The Face appeared. You mustn't believe everything you read in the press. . .

A certain amount of déjà vu surrounds the Communicator going into port. Back in November 1985 the Ross Revenge made a request for any radio equipment to be transferred before the trip into Harwich. This time the Communicator had a nice new mast, which would have no doubt been useful for the Ross.

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WAVELENGTH

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M.V. ROSS REVENGE

Chris Kennedy and Steve Conway jointly shared programming from December 12th. Broadcasts were from 6am to 6pm. December 21st saw news broadcasts recommence after engineer Mike Watts had worked through the night to bring it back into service. Programming was arranged to enable Steve to make best use of the time available to prepare the bulletins. Chris Kennedy programmed from 0600, then Steve from 0900, and Chris once more at 1500 until closedown at 1800.

Christmas Day brought new staff so a lightening of the load. Presents were opened live on the air and Chris Kennedy said hello to his parents, followed by Steve who said hello to his!, an in-joke we believe as Chris and Steve are in fact brothers! Mike Watts took a break from Engineering in the afternoon to present some programming from 1400, then at 1800 a new name, we believe was John Barry, at 2000 Mike Dickson and at 2200 Steve Masters. The station closed at 0000.

The following day Caroline 558 reverted once more to a 12 hour schedule once more, but an extension in hours came to see in the New Year with 24 hour programming from New Years Eve into 1988. Chris Kennedy announced the following schedule.

- 0600 Chris Kennedy
- 1000 Mike Dickson
- 1100 Mike Watts with the Near misses of 1987
- 1200 Top Fifty of 1987 with Chris Kennedy and Steve Masters
- 1900 Rowena Wilde
- 2200 All the staff to see in the New Year

the line up was more or less adhered to, although some overlapping occurred particularly around the Top Fifty. John Barry programmed from 0200 through the night. Rowena Wilde is the new ship's cook who joined the station from Christmas Day.

Caroline 558 continued on her low power into the New Year with a varying line up of Chris Kennedy, Mike Dickson, Steve Masters, Rowena Wilde and Steve Conway on News. Operating hours were from 0600- 2000. Some breaks from the air were noted from time to time. The station left the air on Thursday January 14th, Anoraks UK report the time being between 0920 and 0940. The station remained silent through until Sunday 24th January when Peter Phillips reopened the station shortly after 0700. The station now had a stronger signal which made listening easier during the day, and holding out during the early evening. Despite problems outside the immediate area a 24 hour schedule has been maintained, which from the Monday read

- 0500 Peter Phillips News;
- 0900 Mike Dickson Steve Conway.
- 1300 James Day
- 1700 Steve Masters
- 2100 Rowena Wilde
- 0100 Richard Lee

Some sort of Naval operation was taking place on January 28th with Peter Phillips commenting "Perhaps they're looking for our late lamented mast" James Day's talents as a broadcaster are not the only ones being utilised at present, James also being a registered Seaman he has been helping in the increase in signal strength. On January 29th he and Steve Masters swapped places with James returning from an unsuccessful attempt at mast erecting "It will go up and we will have a better signal"-he said.

An announced closedown was made by Peter Phillips at 0800 on February 12th. Caroline 558 then was off the air "whilst some wires were untangled" A return to the air was made on the Saturday evening (we noted Steve Conway on the air at 2230, followed by Steve Masters) the signal was now clear and listenable and the station could really boast "Europes favourite Music" with a good chance of being heard.

TECHNICAL POINTS

The success of Radio Caroline has to be put down to the team spirit of those with the station and the behind the scenes work on the new aerial system over the past few months has done nothing to disprove this. After the closedown of January 14th work began on the temporary antenna system. A much more permanent structure is planned for the summer months. Two tenders brought most of the required parts to the ship. A 'T' shaped aerial was then strung between two masts at either end of the ship. Not all the parts were to hand so a return was made on January 24th, on slightly increased power. Several attempts were made at erecting the two masts, much to the irritation of James Day, with the rear mast finally put up at the beginning of February. With calm seas closedown was made on February 12th, and the final work began, with rigging arriving Saturday afternoon to complete the job, along with the all important diplexer which will enable a split service to operate once more with the return of Radio Monique on 819. The long awaited short wave service is also due to be put into operation shortly, 6205 has been mentioned as a frequency here. This service will carry Viewpoint style religious programmes, it is unclear as to whether the remainder of the airtime will be filled with a relay of 558 or separate music programmes.

PEOPLE

A few new names on the Ross Revenge this time around. Mike Dickson, follows in the footsteps of Barry St. James and Mark Matthews, both were on Radio Caroline Short Wave, and Mike was formally on air as Mike Davis, no connection here with the Mike Davis from Radio Apollo, or the one who recently spent some time with the Voice of Peace. Rowena Wilde is the current cook on board. Meantime Tony Peters has found work with ILR at Radio Wyvern and Kevin Turner at Ocean Sound - See ...And Finally.

M.V. COMMUNICATOR

Major happenings have occurred over the past month with the ship finding itself back in British Waters anchored at Mistley on the Essex coast. On January 4th the vessel, still anchored in International Waters, was taken over by force. It appears that a large amount of money changed hands between some of the three main backers, tired at the lack of action in putting anything on the air. The result, our information suggests is that around forty men took over the communicator using a boat and a canoe to go alongside. Following this there were behind the scenes talks between the owners, the outcome of which is unknown.

Then in the first week of February the ship lost another anchor, in heavy seas, and unable to hold a steady position was forced to run the engines, using up fuel, which was already in short supply. Engine troubles then developed and the Communicator's Captain decide that there was no alternative than to head for land. Heading first to the River Stour and along to Shotley Pier. DTI and Customs officials boarded to question the crew. Then on February 5th some broadcast equipment was removed and the Communicator sailed to Mistley where she remains. There is talk of the ship being broken up for scrap, but in her short life as a radio ship much has happened before, and could yet.

FM	88	92	96	100	104	108	MHz		
SW	60	65	80	100	130	180	MHz		
MW	54	60	70	80	100	120	140	160	kHz
LW	150	170	190	220	250	270	285	kHz	

GREAT BRITAIN

RADIO PAMELA (1) are now regularly heard under that name after using the old Radio 49 callsign for a short period following the initial raid on Pamela. The station was one of a number on air Christmas Day, with programmes from DJ Robbo, Richard Grahame and station Manager Steve Most on 6204, on which they were heard until February 7th when a move to 6224 was undertaken in the hope of finding a clearer channel. Some early morning tests have also been made on 6450 from 5.00. Steve was due to appear before Chatham Magistrates on January 6th, however the case was adjourned when it came to light that the DTI had entered the premises without a search warrant. Steve is due to reappear on February 10th. At the same sitting DJ Robbo, Station Manager at Radio Radar was fined £100 and given a conditional discharge.

RADIO ATLANTIS (2) made a successful broadcast on December 20th with 3 frequencies in operation, on Short Wave 6230, Medium Wave 1611 and FM 105.3 They were celebrating their 10th birthday and invited local listeners to join them for a drink at the 'British Queen' Public House in Eastbourne, where listeners had the chance to meet DJs Simon West and Pat Brooks from Radio Caroline together with members from fellow South Coast Radio station AbC. Atlantis have a video available for £5

RADIO ORION (3) have been heard regularly on Sunday and most Saturday mornings together with additional broadcasts over the festive season including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. On January 31st it was announced that the station had moved from the 6290 channel to 6300 which they intend to use for all their broadcasts with the exception of the second Sunday when the channel has been regularly occupied by WFRL, which Orion have acknowledged. On this Sunday 6728 will be used.

SPECTRUM LEISURE COMMUNICATIONS (4) are taking a break from the air until around Easter due to other commitments. They were heard however on December 14th, and December 21st when they made mention of "Deliberate Jamming" the previous week. A reference to WFRL who have also occupied the 6300 channel and had clashed with Spectrum for several months over the use of the frequency. On the 14th however Spectrum had the good sense to move to 6232 for the transmissions of sister station Border Radio. The Christmas marathon broadcasts are reported to have gone ahead as planned.

The SCOTTISH FREE RADIO NETWORK are regularly heard on 6318, although the transmitter has been known to drift down to 6317. 41 metres is also used, including 7423 which Richard in Portsmouth reports as putting in a "Marvellous Signal" The channel was used on December 13th for a transmission of RADIO STELLA (5) which featured Kenny King, who is fast becoming a well known voice on Short Wave, due to this and broadcasts on his own station in the network Crusin' Solid Gold Radio. WLR, in addition to their broadcasts as part of the network can also be heard via Radio Rainbow from Ireland on 6240. (5)

RADIO DUCK (6) made their final ShortWave broadcast on January 17th, however DJ Tim Stephens can continue to be heard in the London area on two Oldies stations, Hits FM, and NMR. Prior to their close Duck were heard on Christmas Morning on 6270 when they included a 'phone -in.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL had perhaps the most entertaining of all the Christmas broadcasts: In addition to taking phone calls from the readers of selected Free Radio publications, including Wavelength RECC had a report on the traditional Christmas Day dip in The Wash at Hunstant-on. The event is held for Charity every year and participants also dress up in a variety of fancy dress costumes. Norman Nelson delighted in being ahead of BBC Radio Norfolk in reporting on the event. BBC East did not manage a report until the following afternoon! RECC have continued their regular first Sunday transmissions on 6310, and in their February broadcast gave listeners a chance to win a copy of the 1988 World Radio and TV Handbook. The competition will be continued in the March broadcast, and consists of three questions on Short Wave Free Radio. A booklet listing station addresses, and compiled by the station's Dx Editor Neal West is available, but additional postage must be enclosed if this is required. (7)

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO (8) made their regular Bank Holiday appearance over the Christmas period with broadcasts on Christmas Day (6240 and 7460), Boxing Day (6285), Christmas Sunday (6285 and 98FM) and Holiday Monday (6315). Programming featured the Oldies programme with Barrie Stephens, and listeners' phone calls taken by Jack Russell and Dave Anderson. News was also included on the hour. On December 27th a live link up took place with the Merseyside station, Veronica 104. Sadly the station was subject to a jammer on this date moving from 6285 to 6240, then to 6315 with the jammer close behind. Radio Orion had also had problems earlier in the day, and Radio Stella's 6318 transmitter had a similar problem in early January. RECC Dx reports that in 1980 a similar incident involving European Music Radio was traced to a disgruntled Radio Amateur in Sheffield. Station Manager Jack Russell tells Wavelength that he was pleased with the response to the Christmas broadcasts and assures us that he will be replying to the letters. A new information sheet is currently being prepared. The station was also on the air New Year's Day on 6315.

WFRL- WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON (7) made their Christmas broadcast on Boxing Day from 0900 to 1530 with an answerphone taking listeners calls to the station. WFRL can also be heard every second Sunday and have now increased power to 50 watts.

BRI- BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (9 + 10) aired their traditional Boxing Day Programmes on their established channel of 6304, although some technical problems caused difficulty with the tapes, there was also the regular 4th Sunday broadcast which for December fell the following Day. Ex Caroline Short Wave presenter Freddie Archer presented a half hour programme on this day sounding as if he had never left the air. The Roger Davis programme featured 20 years of best selling records. BRI made some test broadcasts on January 10th and 17th with a new transmitter, in preparation for their second Sunday Oldie service which will commence shortly, however site problems meant that they were to miss the January 4th Sunday. The following week the German service with Simon Hendrix, and Adrian Cooke's Free Radio News was transmitted, with the remainder of the schedule transmitted in early February. The new jingle package now aired by BRI was recorded by the station, and mixed by Roger Davis. The series has in excess of 50 different cuts.

STARBOARD SOUND (9) made one of their occasional broadcasts on 6300, January 3rd with a selection of album tracks played by DJs Adrian Cooke and Andy Walker. In addition there was another chance to hear the Charlie Wolf interview recorded at Driftback 20 the previous August. The station will be 5 years old in April and offers listeners an information sheet and CSL Card.

RADIO APOLLO (7) were heard on 6285 December 15th, and again on January 10th with their regular line up of Dave Scott, Duncan James, and Mike Davis (No connection with the current Caroline presenter).

RADIO CAVENDISH (2) have replied to our report for their November 15th broadcast with a letter/information sheet. The station operates with a 10 watt transmitter running to a dipole antenna. Studio equipment includes 2 Sansui SR222 MkII record decks, Six Channel Mixer, Teac Cassette Deck, Teac Reel to Reel and AOI microphones. There are no CSL Cards available at present.

IRELAND

RADIO RAINBOW (11) are no longer broadcasting programmes under their own call sign since the departure of Kirren Murray from the station, however weekly transmissions continue with religious broadcasts from "Ron's Message from God", and programming from WLR. In addition continuous Oldies tapes are transmitted interspersed with Offshore jingles from the 1960s. On February 7th we recorded splatter from 6240 reaching as far down as Radio Pamela's 6224 transmission.

RIVERSIDE RADIO (12) from Waterford are heard regularly with programmes from Joe Vincent, and occasionally relays from other stations in the locality. 6229 is the frequency here, noted on January 1st, and 6209 on the 3rd.

WESTSIDE RADIO (13) continue to make their Weekly broadcasts on 6280. Mike Evans reports that the Free Radio Programme (FRC) can now be heard at 1030 local time.

EUROPE

The Radio Delmare Court Case took place on December 30th when Johan Rood was fined 12000 Belgian Francs, comparatively a light fine at £180.00 Sterling. The complaint was initially made by RAD control in London, but Johan was able to prove to the court that there were already several broadcasters in the 6200-6210 range, and that BRT had broadcast on 6225, also deemed an illegal frequency less than 2 years ago. Therefore there was only one remaining charge, of illegal broadcast-ing. Delmare's address is Po Box 36, B-2050, Antwerp, Belgium.

(FRC Goes Dx)

Keeping the Fight for Free Radio alive and kicking!

PFBS RADIO

SUNDAYS ON 60, 48 AND 41 METRES SHORTWAVE!

PFBS - PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE (9 + 14) had difficulties with their broadcast on January 10th. The station had some problems with their Car Batteries during the transmission on 6210 and were forced to leave the air after 50 minutes. The broadcast on February 7th was more successful, this time 6285 was in use. PFBS produce an interesting information booklet giving details on the station and its transmission facilities.

RADIO WAVES INTERNATIONAL (15) can be heard regularly with the station being noted on the new frequency of 6271 on both January 17th, and February 7th. The French station is responsible for transmitting programmes for Radio Southsea (1) who have signed up Kenny King for some guest shows. Tapes of the station are available on request.

ADDRESS BOOK

1. 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 3SP.
2. 128 Kingfisher Drive, Langney, Eastbourne, Sussex.
3. 82B Edgewood Road, Rednall, Birmingham, B45 8SG - Please do not mention the word 'radio' on the envelope.
4. EM Broadcasting, London WCLN 3XX.
5. 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, EM12 5TR, Scotland.
6. EM Nectar, London WCLN 3XX.
7. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU

8. 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, England.
9. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NE.
10. Postbus 19074, 3501 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
11. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland.
12. Po Box 39, Waterford, Ireland.
13. 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin 9 Ireland.
14. Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
15. BP 130, 92504 Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France.

LISTENER'S GUIDE

TABLE OF REGULAR FREE RADIO BROADCASTERS.

6224	Radio Pamela	GB	Alternate Sundays.
6240	Radio Rainbow (Including Relays)	IRL	Every Sunday.
6280	Westside Radio (Including Relays)	IRL	Every Sunday.
6295	Radio Krystel	GB	4th Sunday
6300	Radio Orion	GB	Every Saturday, and Sunday Except 2nd Sunday.
	WFRL:Wonderful Free Radio London.	GB	2nd Sunday.
6304	BRI:Britain Radio International.	GB	2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.
6310	Radio East Coast Commercial.	GB	1st Sunday
6318	Scottish Free Radio Network.	GB	Every Sunday
6728	Radio Orion	GB	2nd Sunday
6850	Radio Skywave	IRL	Every Sunday

Other regular stations with no fixed schedule.

6209	Riverside Radio	IRL
6271	Radio Waves International	F
6273	Radio Buttercup	IRL
6285	Radio Apollo	GB

LONDON

Andy Walker

It's another year and another look at what's been "going down" in the Capital city, London. Since the last report, London's unlicensed stations have been exposed by a Fayola scandal with some record companies/Managers of Groups, paying up to £400 a week to have their records played on some of the major Soul stations as a powerplay. This may lead to prosecutions from the DTI's radio investigation department against such people for aiding and abetting pirate stations. But the problem goes deeper. Some stations are now involved in pressing copies of records (ie bootlegging) and plugging the records on air whilst heavily advertising the shops which sell these bootlegs, which in turn helps the pirates earn big money every week, figures of £8,000 a week have been mentioned. This has led to a war breaking out between some stations for a bigger slice of the action. The major stations are removing each others

transmitters, cutting coax cables and smashing up equipment to keep the opposition away from the big money. On top of all this are the raids from the DTI who at the moment are using new tactics when raiding. RTR- ROCK TO ROCK were hit six times in two weeks, with the use of a helicopter on one occasion, below streets around the site were sealed off with roadblocks. All this to stop a station which is entertaining people. I think the DTI have gone too far, and all this will lead to renewed attacks on DTI raiding staff. Just wait and see. The Other new tactics are turning off rigs, then waiting around for station staff to turn up to switch them back on, and then "nicking" them, and taking transmitters without them even being on the air. I can't wait to see what other "Lowlife" ideas they will come up with next. Other News is that more stations are coming on the air CLASSIC 105.5 FM, GALAXY 102.9, and an Indian station on 89.7.ROOTS 93.1 have finally made it on the airwaves 24 hours a day all reggae, which is leading to trouble with SOLAR who transmit on 93 FM.

It's weird to find out that I was behind a large article which appeared in the London Evening Standard on January 4th. I told an "unnamed person" some Hot News about the return of JFM (Early Soul Pirate) which I received from this Guy I know, who was to be paid £50 a week to play the pre-recorded programme tapes on the return of JFM. When the standard rang up this "Unnamed Person" to ask if the rumour that Horizon Radio was to return to the airwaves was true, he told the reporter the story that I had told him, thinking that the story I had told him was about Horizon, which it wasn't - follow the story so far? - The end result, 3 days later on January 7th another article appeared in the paper telling its readers that his "Usually reliable contacts in the shadowy world of Pirate Radio let me down" I believe the man behind Horizon, Chris Stewart, got in touch with the paper after the first article to tell them it just was not true, which proves that you can't believe everything you read in the newspapers, and that my "Unnamed Person Friend" screwed the story right up! NMR(NEWS MUSIC RADIO) 89.6 London's oldies + News station returned on 15th January with all day programming, which in my mind was very naff! On the Monday night at a meeting I was made programme controller, and on the Tuesday I closed the station down due to lack of presenters and the quality of programming which was going out. It was decided to stay off the air until a full line up of DJs and Newsreaders could be found, so we would have something to sell to the advertisers. The link and transmitter was tested the following week to see if things were still working alright, but they were not. Roger Ross was showing a new newsreader around the studio, and on demonstrating how things worked, they did not! On the Sunday evening I went up to the site to find everything had been removed, with the exception of the aerial. Was it workmen as I had thought at the time? or was it the DTI? I'm off to find my baseball bat (Only joking) Leaving you with the news that Tommy Rivers might do programmes for HITS FM 105.5 will he or won't he? More next time.

MERSEYSIDE

RADIO MERSEY WAVES are still on the air regularly from Friday to Monday on 1242 kHz with their Disco/Dance format. The station opens at 0900, and continues until the early hours. Contact address is 9 Meadfoot Road, Wirrel, L46 7UW.

NORTH COAST RADIO, are also regularly heard from Friday to Monday on 1350, opening and closing times vary each day. Address is 18 Exmouth Way, Birkenhead, Merseyside

RADIO ATLANTIS are normally heard on Saturdays and Sundays, but of late have also been noted on some weekdays. The station operates on 1197, and have a new mailing address of 1, Yew Tree Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 9HG.

RADIO VERONICA are on the air Sundays from 1500 - 2200 on 104.7 with a mix of rock, oldies and contemporary album tracks. 81 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17 is the place to write for stickers and T Shirts, the latter priced at £3.75.

EASTHAM COMMUNITY RADIO returned to the air on January 9th on a frequency of 105.4 due to Radio One, who are due to commence broadcasting around the stations former frequency in the near future.

John Hickling

EAST MIDLANDS: DERBY

RADIO FREEDOM had a full days programme schedule lined up for November 22nd from 0925- 1910. It was an interesting day's entertainment with little DJ talk and plenty of music. Although no station address was mentioned, Dave Collins said that WAY AHEAD record store in the centre of Derby was selling Radio Freedom T Shirts for £3. One DJ reported that the station was using a 200 watt FM rig (105 MHz) and another 3 Kilowatt MW rig (1242 KHz) The FM mono signal was considerably stronger than previously and could adequately be heard up to about 11 miles from the transmitter site. However the medium wave transmission is much stronger and obviously can be monitored over a much wider area. The mw rig suffered from a little noticable overheating for a short while.

Over the festive season Radio Freedom were logged on five separate days. The first broadcast on December 26th could only be heard on FM as the medium wave transmitter was being repaired. However, the FM signal was very strong but in mono. By the following day the medium wave rig was back in full operation. The following "Bank Holiday Special" featured plenty of funk, soul and house music. While travelling around Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire listening to the Car radio I was amazed at how clear the medium wave signal was; it was as clear and strong as BBC Radio 1 on 1053 KHz. Most of the DJs apparently get their experience from working in night clubs in and around Derby and Nottingham. The station's main attraction is that it is commercial free and there are no news or weather reports. Some station jingles resemble those that used to be heard on Laser 558.

NOTTINGHAM

HEATWAVE COMMUNITY RADIO/HEATWAVE 105 (105.0MHz Stereo FM). This new station was heard on January 17th, broadcasting reggae and soul music. The DJ calling himself "The Spirit" occasionally gave time checks, briefly introduced various records and read out 2 or 3 requests. To my knowledge, this is the first type of black station ever to be broadcasting within the East Midlands area. The signal was very clear and strong. During January 18th transmissions lasted until 3.00pm when the dead carrier was switched off. No contact address or telephone numbers were given.

WEST MIDLANDS: BIRMINGHAM

Late night monitoring usually brings something up on the FM Bands from Birmingham. As usual PCRL were heard on 103.5 MHz at 23.33 hours on November 12th. Later the following early morning ENTERPRISE was heard on 90.9 MHz at 00.15 . I also logged the station for three consecutive nights at precisely 00.15 hours from November 26th to 28th. Radio Enterprise remains the most frequently heard Free Radio station in this area and seems to be very professionally run - with localised commercials usually advertising such things as night clubs, discos and restaurants. One station presenter is known as Mr Joseph Cotton. The station was logged for 16 days in December - its likely that the station has been broadcasting every single day on 90.9 FM, by January 17th the station still seemed to be going strong. Requests can be sent to Enterprise Radio, Po Box 2004, Birmingham B5 7LU.

WOLVERHAMPTON

UK Radio on 105.2 MHz was heard broadcasting at 2100 hours on Sunday November 22nd. The station DJ was criticizing all other radio stations in the area Beacpn, WM, PCRL, and ENTERPRISE saying that UK Radio was the best for music. The station address for requests and Reception reports was PO Box 5, Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 5AU.

WEST YORKSHIRE

RADIO VERONICA, from Bradford are still operating regularly each Sunday and Wednesday evening on 105.5

As usual this station has been heard late nights (logged on 10th, 13th, 17th, 20th and 28th of December) The zany style of presentation always makes it enjoyable listening to this station. The "Christmas Sunday Special" included lots of guest DJs and friends. Some presenters heard included Ray Clark, Julie and Neil. Veronica were also heard on the 3rd, 10th and 13th of January.

Free Radio Monitoring Service for the East Midlands.

COUNTRYWIDE

MANCHESTER

ICR are currently operating daily on 103.5

WKLR who are broadcasting from the Stockport area have been noted at times on 97.0 FM.

A new station under the name of OUTLOOK have been reported on Sundays on 96.3 with religious programming of the type heard on Radio Caroline's Viewpoint programmes. They are on the air 2000 - 2100.

ISLE OF WIGHT

CHANNEL RADIO were heard again on Boxing Day, December 26th on 263mw, and 105 FM.

Richard Teversham.

Christopher J. Cooper

During the late Summer of 1987 I retired to bed one evening somewhat earlier than usual. The alarm clock was set for 4.30am and the "bell off" function button on the extension telephone was set to "bell on". Such behaviour in this house had seldom been seen before.

I was awake before the alarm sounded and before Ken called me on the phone. Shaping up quite well I thought. An hour later Ken and Terry had both arrived at the house, and the three of us piled into one car and headed South to the coast. Although no one was quite sure what the day had in store for us we all knew it was going to be unusual. We were going to sea. The Northsea, not to Holland, Belgium or France, but to the m.v. Ross Revenge, home of Caroline, Monique, Viewpoint and Overdrive.

Well Yes of course we are all slightly mad, but that is part of the romance and excitement of Offshore Radio. Also to Ken and Terry this was something completely different. Keen listeners though they were, never before had they considered punching out into a misty North Sea in order to board a Radio Ship. However this was 1987, the year which many marked, but did not celebrate the passing of the Marine Offences Act 20 years before. That, one could never celebrate, but one can remember and respect those who over that period have continued to bring us radio unbridled from the heavy and restrictive hand of the state. Also for me this trip out to the Ross Revenge was to renew an experience of 20 years ago. What a year 1987 had been. Special programmes, special articles, Driftback 20, and now to round things off a min-cruise.

Driftback I did to 1967. The dreaded act had become law in August and Caroline continued almost as though nothing had changed, those listeners who stayed with the station particularly savoured this marine broadside to authority, and around the country many people slowly evolved into that off-shoot of mankind known to the few as an Anorak. It can strike at virtually any age

(but is very rare in the "under fives"), is socially acceptable (!), requires no state support or increase in public sector spending, and poses absolutely no threat to the nation's health.

There is one other way an Anorak is different. Collectively and individually they care about their concern, over and above what the neighbours might think and over and above their personal comfort. O.K. so we are a little foolhardy as well.

As the winter of 1967 set in I began from the comfort of home to think about getting out to visit Radio Caroline on the Mi-Amigo. I was a member of the Free Radio Association and therefore had contact with others who might be crazy enough to join me if a suitable boat and skipper could be found.

Arranging such a trip turned out to be very easy, as I was lucky enough to have made some good contacts, primarily with Bill Scadden, former shipping and supplies agent for Caroline South before the MOA came into effect. I managed to find his address and telephone number and contact was made. He said a local skipper could be found to take a party of 12 or less out to the radio ship at Christmas. We settled on 23rd December. Bill Scadden arranged everything and kept me informed in great detail by letter. Strangely we were never to meet, but on one occasion we did speak on the telephone. I had no doubt we were in good hands. This man had been in the Police Service for 25 years. My task was to find eleven others to make the number up to the magic 12. This is, or was the limit for an unlicensed craft. Above 12 passengers Board of Trade regulations apply and the authorities can get sniffy if the slightest thing is out of order. Still we should never forget that safety at sea should be first and foremost in the minds of all who sail.

Using my FRA connections I soon had my 11 passengers. Some I knew from meetings at Rayleigh Hx, others I didn't. The word went round we were to meet at Harwich Harbour at about midday. The exact rendezvous was a harbour cafe near the customs House. On the day everybody who should have turned up did. That included a couple of rock freaks who had come straight from an all night festival at Alexandra Palace in London. The rumour was that they had been popping purple hearts all night and would have no trouble in keeping awake. Their appearance lent support to the story. Nobody actually looked too happy. The sea was not a pretty sight. Rollers and White Horses raced across the mouth of the harbour, and a flood tide from the Stour Estuary was on the way out. Two pilot cutters at anchor on the customs quay were being tossed half out of the water. This was not good. Inside the cafe we drank endless cups of coffee as we waited for contact. The first person to call out my name was not welcome from my point of view. A reporter from the local paper suggested we were reckless in considering the venture, adding a lot of "what if?" questions that I couldn't handle. My response was that it was all down to the boatowner. I don't know to this day how he got hold of the story. It may not have been as a result of a direct tip but merely overheard in a pub or fisherman's club. I just regarded him as a minor irritation.

Happily the boat owner soon arrived and set the scene. It was rough, but the weather was expected to improve quite quickly. It would abate from force 6 to force 3-4 which he described as a bit uncomfortable, but safe. It was on; we were going.

The boat as expected was a none too large fishing boat. In fact it was quite a small trawler, 10 tons, open decked throughout apart from the wheelhouse which was only big enough for a man and a boy. We all jumped on board, the ropes were cast and the bow steered towards the open sea. A very uncomfortable time was when we crossed the harbour bar, turbulent water churned in all directions and the boat pitched up and down and from side to side. We all hung on like limpets to either the deck rail or rusty guy wires that radiated around the short mast. These points of anchorage were to be all we had to secure us from the North Sea for the next 4 to 5 hours.

In Wavelength 21 Carols around the Mi Amigo, Christmas 1967.

Mark Thyme

Yes let's mark time (ugh) with yet more of those technical topics. Firstly as a postscript to the last column, if you had difficulty in tracking down the Matsui MR-4099 radio, if you crossed the street you would find it in your local branch of Dixons as the Saisho SW-5000, for exactly the same price, £29.95. Only the names have been changed! Future receiver reviews will deal with not only portables but some of the current larger sets. Also let me thank you for complimentary comments you've been making about D.I.Y.R. to Adrian. I hope we can continue to arouse your interest. So this month we'll consider that you would like to start building or servicing equipment, and in addition to the usual tools, soldering iron etc., you'll find you really need some **TEST GEAR**.

MULTIMETER. There is a wide variety to choose from here for this essential instrument. The two categories of analog and digital both have advantages and disadvantages. Analog offers unambiguous readings, digital gives a high degree of accuracy. Most meters will measure resistance, DC and AC voltage, and DC current. Some measure AC current as well. I would not recommend the small pocket analog types as they are very limited. You can obtain a reasonable item for less than £20, but the more you pay the better the instrument. I use a TMK700 and an Avo8 Mk4, which have very similar ranges. Over the last few years the price of digital instruments has fallen dramatically, and you can obtain small meters for around £30, indeed I've seen one called DM-105 for under £25! I use the larger Avo DALL6, which has given reliable service over 8 years.

SIGNAL GENERATORS. A unit covering the audio range is useful, these are often called function generators, and usually have sine, square, and triangular output waveforms. This is one item that could even be homebrew or assembled from a kit. For alignment purposes an R.F. signal generator is a must, and would not be much under £100 for a new unit covering, say, 150KHz to 100MHz. Again you can buy a good second-hand unit made by Advance, Marconi etc which may despite being an older valve type gives good results, with usable harmonics up to UHF. The author uses both an Airmec 201 and an Advance SG62. Many generators have facilities for internal and external FM in addition to the standard AM feature.

RF POWER METER. Vital for power and antenna checks on the Tx, again the more expensive types have a wider frequency range with better accuracy. Units by Daiwa, Welz, CTE etc give good results for the price. The author uses a Bird Thruline 49 which has different plug-in elements for for alternative bands and powers. Again older units can be obtained like those by Marconi Inst., which often incorporate a built-in dummy load and sometimes a fan! You must have a good dummy load capable of handling the type of power you are using.

OSCILLOSCOPE. By no means essential, but a very useful tool. New dual-beam units with 20 MHz bandwidth can be purchased for less than £400, but good secondhand items often cost less than this, say under £100. I use a Telequipment D1011 for most work, it's a 10MHz unit, but I also have access to a Hameg HM605 60MHz scope for critical VHF work. It's nice to see 100 MHz sine waves!

RF PROBE/RF MICROVOLTMETER. Useful for measuring small RF voltages in signal circuits, you can buy specific units, but later I will show you how to make your own, as a self-contained unit, or to plug into your multimeter.

GRID/FET DIP METER. So described depending whether it is valved or transistor, this is in effect a small RF signal generator with plug-in coils. Very useful for finding and adjusting the resonant circuits in transmitters and antennas.

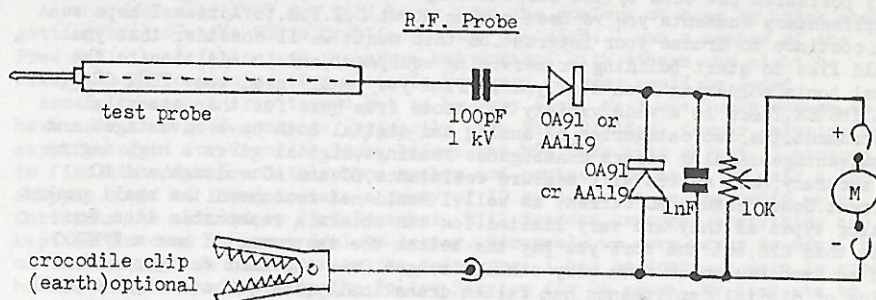
POWER SUPPLY. One with voltage adjustable from 0-30 volts at up to 4 amps or so preferably with presettable current limit is not only useful for setting up circuits without the firework effects, but also saves money on batteries.

FREQUENCY COUNTER. Useful for VHF work, you can purchase a good 200MHz counter for less than £70, e.g. Thander PFM200, also I have seen a unit called 130CHC which says it reads to 1300MHz with 100Hz accuracy; amazing for only £135. Both these are pocket-sized, you can also get larger bench units, e.g. Black Star.

SPECTRUM ANALYSER. The price of these units put them outside the range of most hobbyists, but if you're in the business of making VHF rigs you should consider one to check your gear for purity. You can make your own by using a scope or modifying a TV set and using a varicap TV tuner, but this is outside the scope (no pun intended) of these articles. Anyway, you still need access to a proper analyser to calibrate the one you built!

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER/SCANNER. This you may already have, with a good general-coverage receiver useful for checking quality, harmonics etc of MW and SW Tx's, and a scanner for VHF/UHF radio link tests etc. Many modern scanners have full AM, Narrow-FM and Wide FM facilities. Much new testgear has an IEEE or RS232 interface allowing you to control it with a personal computer.

After that round-up, we may have time to build an RF probe, not only for setting up the transmitter stages, but also antenna field-strength measurement.



Build the unit including test probe into a small plastic box. If you prefer you could also incorporate a small moving-coil meter, say a cheap 200uA type, alternatively run a length of cable from the variable resistor to your own multimeter, fitted with the correct plugs. Screened cable is ideal. Set your meter to the lowest current range available. Probe the part of the circuit under investigation, and if R.F. is present the meter should display it - set the 10K pot so you can see the pointer movement. You may need to clip the croc clip onto the chassis if the voltage is very low. You can also use this unit for RF field strength measurement by replacing the probe with, say, a whip aerial, and adjust the tune and load on the Tx for maximum on the meter. Be very careful when probing circuits in valve transmitters, as high voltages may be present, if the circuit overloads easily then disconnect the earth clip.

Well that's all for now. Next time we may be looking at some solid-state HF transmitters, and modulation techniques.

73 Mark

Adrian Cooke

Anoraks UK..... (0795) 511118
The Caroline Movement..... (0737) 223121
Now Radio Communications..... (0536) 514437
Radio Today (TX) 01 - 400- 8282

Survey Date: Saturday January 16th, 1988

Over the past few years a large number of information services have been made available to telephone users, partly due to the privatisation of British Telecom which has enabled many companies to provide their own information service, and obtain a percentage of the profit from the calls made.

Radio Enthusiasts are amongst those catered for although none take advantage of the above service from British Telecom. There are now four services each carrying news and information on various aspects on the hobby. For those unfamiliar with them Wavelength has produced this brief guide.

ANORAKS UK;

Although Britain's premier Free Radio centre have their base in Blackpool, the telephone service is operated independently from the Isle of Sheppy, Kent although there is obviously regular contact between the two branches.

Steve Harper, formally with short wave station FMTR is responsible for the day to day running of the line. The information is, for the most part concise, and covers current landbased and offshore happenings in Free Radio, with updates on Mondays and Fridays plus additional tape changes if a new story breaks. Our only criticism of the line is Steve can sometimes sound vague, giving the impression that parts are unscripted. A further line on (0795) 511119 allows for callers to leave their own information. The message ends with information on products and services currently available from Anoraks UK. Duration 2 minutes, 41 seconds.

THE CAROLINE MOVEMENT;

The CM infoline has never promoted itself as a full news service, although it carries regular and up to date reports on Offshore news. Again like Steve operator Chris Wheeler can sound vague, by telling half of a story. However he is most amusing in his comments, and is able to provide the caller with updates on events within the Caroline Movement including boat trips and local group meetings.

Again a second number is provided to leave information or talk directly to Chris or his wife Teresa who shares the running of the line. (0737) 241510 is where to call. Duration 2 minutes 3 seconds.

NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS;

Certainly the best of the four services the Now Radio Infoline owes much to the sharp, professional delivery of editor Howard Rose (Jay Jackson as he was on Radio Caroline). The messages commence with a run through of services provided by Now Radio Communications, therefore the caller has to listen through this before hearing the news, the result perhaps being that he will then subscribe to one or more of the organisations' publications. A wide selection of news is given, and it must be remembered that Now caters for more than just enthusiasts, consequently there is information on ILR and BBC stations, as well as Offshore, and as Howard likes to put it "Third Force". What provided us with much amusement was the bleep tone for messages which appeared halfway through the final sentence on this occasion.

Duration 2 minutes 25 seconds.

RADIO TODAY

Sadly we were not impressed with Radio Today, the short message gave us no idea of which stations were on air to the capital, a brief item on the possible privatisation of the BTI was followed by a series of self promotions which took up the remainder of the call. Whilst there is nothing wrong in theory with this, the services are after all being provided for free it was felt that Radio Today had overstepped the mark. It was however well read. Duration 58 seconds.

What lets all of the services is the cost of the call, even at cheap rate still 20p a time, which if you call regularly would cost £1.40 a week for Now Radio alone (this line updates daily). To subscribe to Now Radio itself the cost is only 92p per week, and it contains far more than the phone line would ever be able to. If you were to call all of the services as they update this would cost you somewhere in the region of £2.50 a week, again assuming all calls are made at the cheap rate.

In conclusion although all of the lines do provide an instant service, your money would perhaps be better spent on either Now Radio or the Weekly Report, the latter only 40p a week posted first class in the United Kingdom

Adrian Cooke

On Tuesday January 19th, 1988 the Home Secretary made clear the Government's radical proposals for a major shake up in the radio industry of the United Kingdom. Based on over 500 responses to last year's Green Paper on radio, Douglas Hurd's proposed legislation is aimed to provide "healthy competition" and create a new wave of stations which people involved in Free Radio, and later Community Radio groups have been pressing for since the launch of Radio Caroline in 1964, and after almost a quarter of a century it finally looks as if radio is to be opened up. The main points are as follows;

- Three National Radio Networks to be sold by competitive tender to the highest bidder, vetted first by a new radio authority.
- The new Radio Authority will take control of the existing ILR stations, although those currently with the IBA can remain so if they wish.
- ILR stations will be freed of their public service obligations.
- A varied programme output will be required from the new national stations.
- Ownership will be restricted to companies within the EEC.
- No group will be allowed to have interests in more than one national or six local stations.
- Licences will run for eight years.
- Licences will be assigned according to local demand and wishes.
- There will be several hundred new licences available around the country.
- Religious and political material will not be allowed.

To say that the Home Secretary's proposals for the development of Radio in the United Kingdom are radical is very nearly an understatement. The "Not Enough Frequencies" argument has been thrown away overnight with Douglas Hurd being strongly against simulcasting programmes on AM and FM. It is here that the first of the problems now facing radio begin. The BBC have already made clear their intention to broadcast all four of the corporations networks on the FM band, thus helping themselves to a nice little batch of FM frequencies, and as the band is gradually cleared of the Police and other service users this leaves one slight problem for the new Commercial networks. Only one FM frequency. The result is that the other two have no other choice at present other than to operate on Medium Wave, and on looking at the channels which the band has to offer we find that one is 1215kHz/247 metres currently held by BBC Radio Three, and up to the reorganisation of frequencies a decade ago by Radio One. The channel is definitely the most inferior of all those which the BBC could have surrendered and when the other factors mentioned are taken into account leaves the new Networks with three poor frequencies two on AM whilst the rest of the country is being persuaded to discard the band in favour of FM Stereo. Douglas Hurd is already under some pressure to make the Corporation give way to more FM channels, Colin Walters, Managing Director of Manchester's Picadilly Radio has said that the BBC in only giving up two national frequencies will not provide for adequate National coverage.

The National dailies have referred to the decision to "sell off" the National frequencies as an "Auction" is slightly unfair to the proposals which indicate a competitive tender where the prospective companies first put forward their programming ideas to the new Radio Authority, then having got over the first hurdle put their bids into sealed packets, the higher then gets to run the channel, and most ingenious of all pay the treasury a proportion of the profits direct. It's very clever but it also implies that the Government has the right to sell off thin air. On reflection did the IBA have the right idea here after all?

It is the intention that the new Networks will all be diverse in their choice of programming, note that a Commercial pop service was immediately ruled out, which does not seem unreasonable until you recall a BBC idea to introduce a greater element of speech into Radio One's programming. One Network offering a Channel Four type mix of varying interests seems like a good idea, but surely once you have that service there is no need for two more, and whilst we do not simply want commercialised duplicates of services already adequately catered for by the BBC, three National Hotchpitches is not my idea of diversification especially when there are so many untapped ideas which would appeal to a National Audience, An all News Service, or Oldies, or Country Music all of which would have widespread appeal.

On a local level it is unclear whether stations would be operating on FM or a mixture of both AM and FM, although one must remember that the proposals, which are based on last year's Green Paper have not yet been fully drafted and changes could still be made. The opportunities at the local stations have to be the best of all with the Home Secretary stating that he does not want to draw any line between what is now Independent Local Radio and Community Radio, allowing individual stations to develop in the way the companies, broadcasters and audiences wish them to go, and by stations having to prove that they can add to existing radio services as their test for a licence will perhaps fill the parts of the United Kingdom, not yet touched by a 'proposed IEA franchise' leaving the choice for radio with the people rather than bureaucrats.

The BBC though are not the only ones attempting a frequency fiddle. It has not gone unnoticed the amount of opt out services currently creeping in. To commence with it was a way of ILR stations increasing their areas, sharing costs or providing a more local service for some areas, but from the opt outs of Chiltern Radio, Suffolk Group Radio and GWR has come Ocean Sound's Light FM and Red Rose Rock, so when the Home Office move everyone on to single frequency broadcasting what happens to all these

additional services. It is not unreasonable for extra transmitters to cover a wide geographical area where reception is difficult, but the law of the reasonable man which would see no wrong in ILR remaining as it is and letting newer stations build up around it, does take a dim view at que jumping which surely the new breed of independent operators, some perhaps ex-pirates will find as unfair, almost being treated as second class citizens. The Government must ensure that this unfair foothold on the door of "open competition" in radio is not allowed to develop too far.

The diversification test may well have some interesting results, not least in London where some operators of the Soul stations have said that if they do not get a licence they will continue anyway, not exactly cricket, surely once an alternative has been created there is no need to duplicate it. That said there must surely be some room for competition amongst stations of similar programming styles, as at the end of the day it will be the market forces of the advertisers and listening public who will decide who wins.

The Home Secretary wants to remove the needtime hurdle from the airwaves, which will ease not only the ILR stations who have long forced against the nose around their necks held by the Performing Rights society but also for the small community stations who otherwise might meet an early death. Now is the time for the people who complained about the state of radio to get up and act for the development of sound broadcasting together or as part of experienced broadcasters to see ourselves into a radio future with hope for all listeners. We must give the new "Light Touch" regulations a chance to work and not go and set up on our own if one group is not awarded a licence All I personally want now is for the new system to work, and with no General Election on the horizon the Government will hopefully not find any more reasons to call it off again. If as a whole the system fails to work I'll be back to start the fight for Free Radio all over again.

Mike Ross

I think it must have been one of my off days, locked on top of a block of flats with Chris Miles and a load of incriminating radio gear and half the Met. Police no doubt rushing to the scene of the crime. I didn't think that they'd believe that we had gone up there to listen to the radio/look at the stars etc.

Fortunately our luck hadn't quite run out: for whatever reason some scaffolding had been put up between the two blocks and figuring this to be a way out we rushed down it as far as the first floor, to find that there was no way off it. Well, not exactly, getting off involved leaping off the end of the plank, clearing a five foot spike railing fence six feet away and landing in a garden before going over a six foot hedge into the road and freedom. So, not having anything to lose, we gave it a try: I took a run and jumped off the end of the plank, at which point a slight problem occurred. . .

It is probably an idea to mention here that the plank that I was trusting my life to was about 20 feet long and overhung the end of the scaffolding by about five feet. Unfortunately as I jumped onto the end of it I suddenly discovered that whoever had built the scaffolding had omitted to fasten it down, the result being that as I went down on one end the other end lifted. Fortunately I managed to clear the railings and land in the garden, but the 15 feet of plank no longer held up by my weight on the end of it fell back with a crash sufficient enough to wake the dead. Dead or not the noise had disturbed a number of residents of the block and lights were coming on all over the place, and when Chris Miles jumped, with similar results, I think we must have had quite an audience as we broke a few records getting back to the studio. Having phoned his friend to check that the coast was clear, Chris went back to the site to collect the gear about an hour later.

Getting caught on top of tower blocks isn't my idea of radio, but in London these are the only FM sites of any use and most stations used them (a few years later many stations used houses on top of Sydenham Hill for 24 hour broadcasts). The best blocks were soon discovered both by the stations and the DTI; access to the roof was by using fire brigade pass keys, copies of which did the rounds of most stations as soon as they were issued, although I have heard of one or two cases where friendly caretakers helped out! Some ops used to pretend to be lift engineers or electricians etc to give them an excuse for being there, others would just creep up and hope they weren't spotted. By the time I left London in late 1982 caretakers were getting quite good at spotting pirate stations but there were still cases where you could bluff it out with them:-

In April 82, CB Radio held the first (and only) national CB Show at the Wembley Conference Centre. CBR magazine had run a number of articles on free radio and the Free The Airwaves campaign was offered a stand to promote Free Radio. The show was to be opened by Tony Blackburn and amongst other things we had a tape done by some George Formby impressionist which just sang 'Tony Blackburn' for about three minutes. I don't think he saw the joke. Also on the stand was a display of pirate gear, lent by Alices Restaurant, which consisted of a large black metal box with knobs, meters etc and nothing inside and another much smaller box connected to an aerial. This was the VHF link from out of the centre which Radio Zodiac would use for their live broadcast from the show on the Sunday, linking back to the studio via a nearby tower block and a UHF relay.

Chris, myself and Phil, a friend who was helping out, drove over to the block to install the relay on Saturday. While I stayed below they went up onto the roof and started fitting the aerials, at which point the caretaker appeared. . . This could have been a nuisance, as he was not the type to be fobbed off with any old excuse, and I suspect he recognised the equipment as being radio gear, but luckily for us we had been issued with exhibitors passes which were worn i.d. card style on the breast pocket of Phil's suit and our anoraks. These, and Chris's story that we were 'setting up a radio link for the show and hadn't he been told by the council', satisfied him and we had no

further problems. A case of the right story at the right time.

Looking through a recent issue of Now Radio I came upon an article moaning about the lack of co-operation between London stations, as if this was something new: I remember that they tried to organise meetings for all the stations to get together to plan out frequencies and times -I think JFM were behind this- but they always tended to degenerate into degenerate into slanging matches, even a fight once, usually between the Soul stations JFM, Invicta and Horizon. Of course a number of things were different compared with now: most stations only appeared for a few hours at the weekend; there was almost no advertising (or payola) on stations, most of which were run by free radio or music enthusiasts; only a couple of stations could be said to cover the whole of London, most just broadcast to specific parts (ie South West, North West, South East etc). Nowadays things are different: You have twice as many stations all trying to cover the same area (the whole of London) on the same frequencies and churning out the same type of music whilst trying to make vast amounts of money. I'm not talking about the beeb or IBA but the stations that want to replace them supposedly for the above reasons. (That should improve the mailbag a bit).

In WAVELENGTH 21: How Zodiac FM got off the ground, Close Encounters of the Eric Kind, Various goings on in South West London.

Merseyside Free Radio writer Tim Jackson has completed his final report on Free Radio happenings in his area. Tim, who has been reporting on events in his area, every week since August 1983 says that a growing disillusionment with the output of the stations made him reach his decision. He feels that every time a station looks as if it will make it to the big time, something occurs which means that the dream will not be realised.

Two stations concerned about the amount of press coverage they receive are Radio Merseywaves and Radio Atlantis, who have been heard on air voicing their opinions, in very strong language that the Anoraks UK Weekly Report has been giving them both short shrift in favour of North Coast Radio (This has echoes of the Labour and Conservative Parties arguments against the BBC) Whatever happened to editorial freedom.

Former Laser 558 presenter Jessie Brandon is the latest name to find herself in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. She was introduced to listeners by Jeff Graham on the condition she didn't mention Laser!

A £400,000 cash injection has been given to the DTI's radio division in an attempt to clear the airwaves ready for the new licenced stations, many of which will be held by those already there. We hope that the money will be well spent on such essential items like cranes, helicopters etc. Anyone for an efficiency study of the NHS?

Congratulations to the Anoraks UK Weekly Report who reach their 200th edition of the news publication on February 28th.

Those of us who regard Radio One as having too much inane chatter should think again following the recent More Music Day. January 19th was set aside with presenters being restricted to Record announcements and Traffic News. It was declared a failure after a third of callers proved in favour. This does of course suggest two answers. Either everyone who prefers less chat had already found another station to listen to, or we've been wrong for years! I suspect the former, mixed with people who do like the chatter - lets hope the remainder of the country, away from the Caroline area, and out of earshot of the Irish stations will be provided with an alternative as well.